



Humanities, rally!

A charge against the austerity measures facing the Humanities

Students, unite! Teachers, revolt! Managers, think!

The humanities at the UvA must not be downsized slowly. The Faculty board agrees, and has decided - instead to disfigure them beyond recognition. As of 2016, it will *either* merge all Bachelor programmes into one universal Liberal Arts programme, *or* group all programmes into as few as five *bachelor schools*. Redundancy awaits 150 teachers. Electives will be massively reduced, students can choose their desired discipline only after a year of general courses. Less specialization, more massification. How could this lead to the improvement of education?

This reorganization, presented in empty policy rhetoric, should be an answer to “inevitable” budget cuts. The deficit of the Faculty of Humanities (FGw) - reportedly a sum of 13 million Euros - is said to be caused by the unforeseen results of the Executive Board’s *allocation model*, the model used for the distribution of funds among the separate faculties. All the while, the UvA’s general education budget will increase for 2016, 2017 and 2018; other Faculties already have financial surpluses. Budgets they are not allowed to save, but for which they don’t have a purpose so far.

Thus the FGw is facing yet another undesirable and unnecessary reorganization. Just as with the implementation of the 8-8-4 system and the new governance model, neither students nor teachers have consented with these decisions. For years, departments have been facing restrictions of their freedom in designing their own educational programmes. Now, Executive Board and Faculty Board simply want to dissolve these departments, thereby annihilating this freedom completely. Do not let this happen!

We therefore call upon the Executive Board to:

- Revise the results of the current ‘allocation model’ and cover the shortage of the FGw and other Faculties with the as yet unappointed surpluses.
- Design a new allocation model, in order to safeguard the Humanities from similar problems in the (near) future.
- Change the ‘quality budget’ regulation, which rewards additionally research projects that are already aided by external funds, so that the humanities will be evaluated on their intrinsic quality instead of their marketability.
- Distribute the ‘policy budget,’ an amount of 3 million euro’s that the Board has put to its own disposal, among the Faculties facing financial problems.
- Warrant educational quality with the budgets that will be made available with the implementation of the new student loan system.

Furthermore, we demand the Faculty Board to:

- Stand their ground against the Executive Board, instead of continuously succumbing to its will.
- From now on, give precedence to the opinion of academic staff and students.
- Resist these budget cuts and for the moment refrain from reorganizations

Students, UvA employees, supporters, rise up for the preservation of the humanities!

Stay informed: facebook.com/humanitiesrally, twitter.com/humanitiesrally and humanitiesrally@gmail.com